MUSEUM ON MAIN STREET
A Museum Of County Life

IMPRESSIONS

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER • NOVEMBER 2003

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Published Seven Times A Year
From September-May.
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Annual dues are individual, $15; couple/family $25; student or senior (60+) $10; senior couple $19; business/association $50; patron $100.

Your Museum

Our **next exhibit** on ***"Dollhouses and Toys of Yesteryear"*** will open to the public on **Saturday, November 8** at noon. After that we will be open every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday from noon to 4 PM. We will also have our **Holiday Open House** on **Saturday** and **Sunday, December 6 & 7** and **December 13 & 14.** We will have a Christmas tree decorated with antique ornaments and modern electric lights as well. Our gift shop is stocked with wonderful items that make great holiday gifts. We are a free museum with donations appreciated and we are also handicap accessible. We have limited onsite parking at our location at N. Main and Beakes in Ann Arbor but there is street parking nearby. For more information call **Pauline Walters** at 734-662-9092.

Randy LaHote, chair of the Director Search Committee, reported that they have narrowed down the 34 applications to seven people to interview. The committee will begin interviewing this month. We hope to hire someone by January 1. It will be exciting to finally have a paid staff person who will whip us into shape. **Tom Freeman** reported continued increase in value in the Bach Bequest. Collections Chair **Judy Chrisman** reported that our grinding and ox cart wheels have been given to the Cobblestone Farm while the ox yoke is theirs on loan. She also reported that more items from Gordon Hall have been given to the Dexter Area Historical Society, and that the many boxes of property abstracts we have will be going to the Genealogical Society's Library, currently on Hill Street. At its last meeting, the WCHS Board voted to deaccession 34 items, most of which are duplicates. These range from clocks, to trunks, barrels, chests and kitchen implements. They will be sold at auction at a future date and the proceeds used to further our mission.

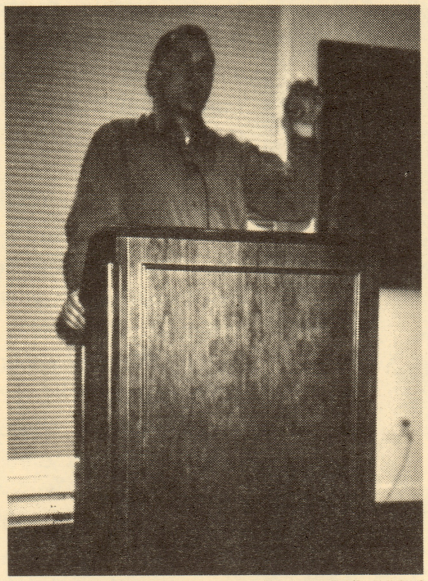
One reason we need to deaccession duplicate items is our need to move from our space at Willow Run to a new location. We need about **1000 square feet** for storage and the space needs to be accessible evenings and weekends. If you know of such a place in the area, please let us know! We are unable to store our large items in our small house and hope we will find suitable new quarters soon. We are also looking for an angel to give us $100 to restore the wooden works of one of the clocks we are keeping. Anyone out there with time and $$$ on their hands?

Our Museum is looking better and better thanks to the work of **Bill Click**. He has finished the ramp in the rear and will be painting it and the front porch too. He will soon tackle the other projects that need work.

Visit our Holiday Open Houses December 6 and 7 and 13 and 14 and experience our Dollhouse and Victorian Toy Exhibit which will be up from November 8 to January 10, 2004.

SERGEANT MICHAEL LOGGHE

True Crimes And The History Of The Ann Arbor Police Department



Sgt. Michael Logghe talks about his book on the history of the police department in Ann Arbor. Photo: S Wineberg.

On Sunday, October 19 in the sun-filled Recital Hall of University Commons, more than 50 people heard Michael Logghe's fascinating tale of the crimes committed in our small Midwestern town. Vice President Ralph Beebe introduced the speaker as someone he encountered when he heard him lecture on his book (with the above title) published in 2002 at his own expense and on his own time. The book can be purchased at the Liberty Street Border's Bookstore and is several hundred pages, organized by decade, and filled with pictures and copies of newspaper articles. Logghe has been with the Ann Arbor Police Department for 19 years and he started working on his book six years ago. In researching the history of the police department, Logghe encountered many interesting people, old timers, strange facts and a surprising number of crimes! He recounted some of them for us this afternoon.

"I want to thank the historical society for inviting me to speak. I have now served 19 years with the police department and it's gone by real quick. I started the book years ago and I only regret that I made a lot of grammatical mistakes that didn't get caught before it was published. I had to pay for and buy all the copies myself, so it was a gamble. Edwards Brothers printed it and I had 200 cases of books, which I hauled in my truck to my house in Brighton. I barely made it home and then when I looked at one book I discovered the photos were upside down! Luckily, however, it was only in one book that they made that mistake. I kept that one as a souvenir.

I've always had an interest in history and I especially loved American history. I even won a Social Studies Award in high school! When I was growing up I wanted to be either a police officer or a history teacher. For whatever reason, I chose the path to the police. I love being associated with the Ann Arbor Police Department which has a quite rich history.

It was established in 1871 after a legislative committee from the Michigan State Legislature made a visit and reported they were "quite surprised at the moral tone, or lack therefore, in the city and relayed their feelings to city council. Council obviously wanted to protect the university, keep it in the city and the money it brought into town." Although fearful of repercussions, the council did pass a resolution in October of 1871 with an ordinance stating that the "police force is required for protection against burglars, situated as we are on one of the great thoroughfares of the State and with a large floating population, concerning the character of which at the best we can know but little, our City seems to furnish a safe retreat for desperate characters against whose depredations we have little or no protection." They also stated the need for "protection" against incendiaries as well as accidental fires" and to "suppress disorder and secure the enforcing of the ordinances of the city and state." A tax on billiard tables and saloons as well as fines for breaking ordinances was what paid for the earliest police department, which consisted of one marshal and five patrolmen. At the time there were 38 saloons, gambling halls and other things considered unsavory for the student population in this very small town. I didn't realize how much gambling there was in Ann Arbor until I started researching this book. It was quite common until the 1950s, and literally millions of dollars in gambling went through the city every year. The longest investigation ever made in Ann Arbor involved gambling. One police chief was forced out due to the scandal associated with the United Cigar Store at **Huron and Chapin** which was a **center of the gambling in town**. I have all the memorabilia that I collected in some cases in the History Room in the police station and that includes some neat things. If we ever obtain a new building I hope to get a bigger facility for all these artifacts on the police.

The book came about because of **Truman Tibbals,** the owner of **Drake's Sandwich Shop** on North University from

The First Ann Arbor Police Force. Photo: Courtesy M. Logghe

1935-1994, and the fact that he had been photographing every policeman who came into his shop since 1939. A roster of names beginning in July of 1939 extends over 10 pages in the book, the last entry being in 1993. Tibbals only allowed policemen into his shop at night and he kept the back door open for them. He'd fix them food and sometimes he would be cooking for 20 officers. He ran the store after midnight and his wife Mildred ran it during the day. It was a real hangout for the officers, something that doesn't exist today. I feel sorry for today's police who haven't had an opportunity to network this way. Tibbals also clipped all newspaper articles about the police and kept them together [They can be found at the back of the book].

Mug Shot of the murderer of Officer Stang. Photo: Courtesy M. Logghe

Before he died, Tibbals gave me a big box of photographs and clippings. I was dumbfounded at finding these gorgeous black and white photos. I put them in a scrapbook and Truman died a year later. His family then gave me another big box full of the newspaper clippings. I had this treasure trove of information and I realized I needed to write a history of the police department so I could share this with Ann Arbor. The book is dedicated to Truman as a result. I had never undertaken a project like this before so there was a learning curve involved. But it has been a very rewarding experience. Many people came forward with memorabilia and information, their grandfather's scrapbook and other materials. The book is divided into decades and I've picked my favorites to talk about today.

We've only had one murder of a police officer in the city of Ann Arbor [others have died in traffic accidents or from heart attacks] and this was on March 21, 1935. The officer was **Clifford Stang** and he was killed when he interrupted a burglary at the **Conlin-Wetherbee Clothing Store** at **118 E. Washington** (now the site of Arbor Brewing). He had gone into the store to buy a tie clasp at the behest of his wife who wanted him to look sharp. The owners Herbert Wetherbee and William Conlin were present and waiting on the two men who pulled guns and said 'this is a stick-up! It's not a joke.'

Every police officer has stories about people who make jokes and say 'this is a stick-up!' or something to that effect. Officer Stang walked a beat and knew the owners on a first-name basis. When he walked into the store, Mr. Wetherbee yelled to officer Stang that it was a stick-up and Stang thought it was a joke. One of the thieves pushed a gun into Wetherbee's stomach and said 'shut up or I'll blow your guts out.' Stang also was approached by a man with a gun who put it into his back. He tried to subdue his attacker and was shot dead right there in the store. Over 2,000 people attended his funeral.

The attackers fled to a waiting car and a partial license plate number was retrieved. Although the abandoned vehicle was found in Jackson the suspects were believed to be from Detroit. Mr. Wetherbee went to Detroit and looked at mug books and eventually identified **William "Shorty" Padgett** as a possible suspect. Padgett was also known as William Hayden. He was eventually arrested in Los Angeles and returned to Ann Arbor for trial in 1936. He had already served a prison term at Jackson Prison for armed robbery.

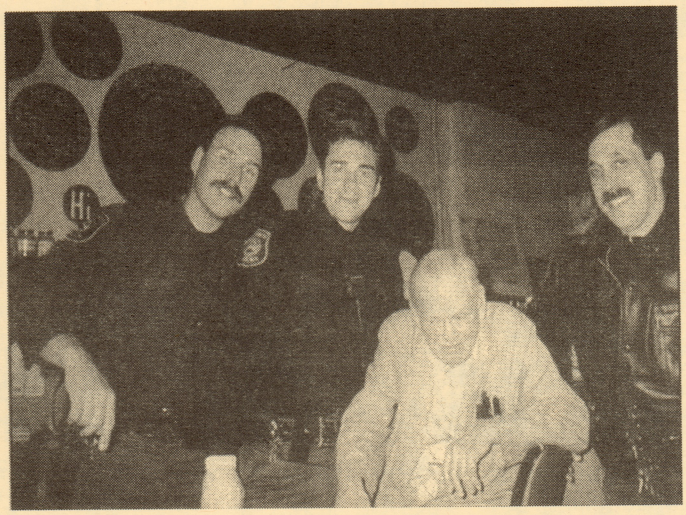
There were many nuances involved in this murder. Padgett was tried and found guilty and sent to prison for life in 1935. However, he appealed his sentence in 1944 and he was granted a new trial based on two procedural errors. After less than an hour, another jury found him guilty of the murder of Officer Stang. He still claimed his innocence, and asked for a polygraph test. For reasons still not clear, he was released from prison in 1949 with the help of **Ann Arbor Police Chief Casper Enkemann,** who believed he could be innocent based on the results of his lie detector and truth serum tests. He was however paroled, not pardoned. Padgett had a sad background, growing up in an orphanage with Babe Ruth and going on to have a life of crime. The other two involved in the murder were never caught or identified. I still have not understood why others thought he was innocent. I have read the transcripts and feel that he was a consummate con artist. But Chief Enkemann was a stand-up man and he felt there might be some doubt as to his guilt. There is a picture in the book of him shaking Chief Enkemann's hand after his release from Jackson Prison.

One of the things I got due to writing this book was the print card for Shorty which was in Joe Burke's office—Burke being the son of Padgett's attorney George Burke. Joe is now an assistant prosecuting attorney for the county. The Washtenaw County Court had all the court files for this case in a big box and they were going to destroy it the year that I was looking into this case! I was able to get all that information just in the nick of time. I even have the actual bullet that killed Officer Stang (along with the envelope it was in from the surgeon) in the display case in our History Room at the police department. We've been lucky to get as much as we did and also lucky that only one officer has been killed in the line of duty.

I was also referred to a retired officer in Tecumseh named **George Camp** who served as a police officer from 1930-1940. When I interviewed him he was literally on his deathbed, dying of liver cancer, at the age of 90. He was still sharp though and remembered every detail of that crime, including the name of Officer Stang's wife! I was also unaware that George had been at the murder scene, and when I arrived for the interview his daughter had a 50-

page, single spaced typed history of the police department that George had written. This was something we did not have at the police department, so it was a treasure trove of information about officers, facilities and crimes.

On a lighter note, people have inquired about Policeman's Balls and we did have them for a while. They were held from 1927-1941. Sometimes 1200 people attended and the purpose of the balls was to raise money for the families of police and firemen since the city didn't provide pensions then. Policemen often had to resort to other means of income to supplement their measly pay and shooting deer was one way to put food on the table. We lost a lot of talented officers because of the low pay.



Truman Tibbals of Drake's Sandwich Shop is responsible for collecting much of the AA Police Department's history. Photo: Courtesy M. Logghe

In those days there weren't so many regulations, and also no Humane Society—in those days the Humane Society was strapped on their hip! If there were problems with animals, they just shot them. One officer once shot 60 pigeons at the UM East Engineering Building after receiving a complaint. At the time, this was completely acceptable behavior. Even worse was the officer who couldn't get a cat out of tree with a ladder and finally just shot it. If you complained about owls, they shot those too. We have a record of an officer shooting three owls in Burns Park. The problem today is that people don't know who to call and they just call the police.

In looking through the old records I stumble across things that are very interesting from today's point of view. There are, for instance, investigations of 'feather parties' which I still don't quite know how to define. They were apparently some form of gambling and they were held at the American Legion Hall, the Grotto Club, and other similar venues. The officer investigated and found they were in violation of a city ordinance. Another odd investigation by today's standards was the complaint of a morals charge again a non-married couple living together. They were investigated and charged by a judge with 'lewd and lascivious cohabitation,' fined $50 each and sentenced to five years probation. In 1939, selling contraceptives was illegal and we have the arrest record of a man caught selling them at a gas station. And of course we had a lot of arrests of moonshiners, persons making illegal alcoholic beverages during Prohibition. We had one case where a car was pulled over by two officers and one rode on their running board while the other followed in the police car. But they weren't moonshiners but murderers and began to shoot the policeman on the running board. Only his bulletproof vest saved his life! In 1941, an officer found two people in the 600 block of N. Fifth Ave handing out Communist literature—they were told to leave town!

In 1950 we hired our first black police officer. Clayton Collins worked from 1950-1955 and was hired as a result of a letter from Albert Wheeler [later Ann Arbor's first black mayor] and others asking that the city hire a 'Negro." It was also a result of Wheeler asking Collins to apply for the job. Wheeler encouraged blacks to apply for jobs in fields in which they were not represented or underrepresented. I was surprised to find that Officer Collins encountered very little racism, not only within the department but also within the city. Almost all the officers were accepting of him and at worst some were distant. Collins said Ann Arbor was a wonderful place in the 1950s and he found his experience very positive and enjoyable. He is still alive and lives on Sandalwood.

Regarding the treatment of blacks, I found an old complaint from 1943 about the refusal of the Pretzel Bell to serve 'colored people.' An officer investigated and told the owner that if he didn't serve colored people he could be fined and arrested. I found this amazing for such an early date and in such a small town.

One of the most unusual cases, which made national news and was featured in ***Life Magazine*** in 1955, was the case of the Cheng Lim, a student from Taiwan who was sponsored by the First Methodist Church to attend the University of Michigan. When his grades were very poor one semester, he felt he had shamed his family and proceeded to hide in the attic of the church for four years! He would sneak down at night to find food and the caretakers were aware of something in the building. Finally one investigation discovered his hiding place. He had not spoken to another human for four years! Officer Norm Olmstead arrested him but got his story. He eventually got his master's degree with the help of the Ann Arbor community which felt sorry for him. When someone went back to the attic 25 years later, some of Cheng's things were still there!

The police used to have to investigate 'unclean persons' when there was a lot of concern about venereal disease. A complaint about someone meant the police could come to your apartment and investigate you for VD and refer you to the Health Department. During World War II (my second favorite period) there was a lot of rationing, so we had to investigate charges of illegal black market sales of gasoline and other products.

In 1941, a **pistol range** was opened on land donated on Huron River Drive near Bird Road. It was one of the finest in the state and officers had a lot of pride in it since they built it themselves with their own money and on their own time. It had 25 mechanical targets at which the officer shot pistols, Thompson sub-machine guns and sawed off shotguns. For years Enkemann was the top shot. One of the saddest things in his career was seeing it closed down before he died. It is now part of Bird Hills Park. There were three outbuildings and there is still one standing

there now, and written on the side of it is 'try squeezing.' It took me a minute to realize this referred to squeezing the trigger.

There was a huge flagpole at the pistol range with a plaque that read 'Ann Arbor Police Pistol Range-1941.' This plaque disappeared and was given to me in 1998 by a University of Michigan professor who found it in the garden of a friend he was helping move. It was granite and in perfect condition. Perhaps an officer took it when they tore down the range and then forgot about it. I had it cleaned and it is now in our display case.

We also recovered a lot of trophies. Though Officer Stang was murdered in the line of duty, the 'Clifford Stang Memorial Trophy' was given to the officer who was the best shot! It's a little ironic, but these trophies were awarded every year. I searched all over to find these and after three years we found one in an old closet in the police department, right under my nose! Again, I encourage you to read the book and come and visit our display cases. This history is fascinating and you wouldn't think a small town such as Ann Arbor would have such a rich history of crime.

In the question and answer period, the murders committed by John Norman Collins in 1969 were discussed in detail. There is information in the book about this grisly string of murders.

Clayton Collins (right) was the first black hired on the Ann Arbor Police Force. Photo: Courtesy M. Logghe.

LOUIS WM. DOLL

The Tragedy Of Dr. Jay H. Herrick

The late Louis Doll was a great storyteller. Before his death, he sent me a number of manuscripts. Here's a sample of one of them.

As usual, I came jumping downstairs two steps at a time one summer morning in my Chelsea home and discovered that we had unexpected guests, a young woman and a baby in a stroller. I stopped to hear my mother agreeing on a price for room and breakfast. After the guests had left, mother told me that there had been a terrible head-on collision on the electric interurban line running through Chelsea and that many had been killed. She had a look of horror on her face as she said this. The survivors were apportioned out among and taken in by local residents until they could get home. I was nearly seven years old. I heard my parents discuss the collision often, so I was never to forget it.

On July 5, 1922, a traumatic day for me, we moved to Ann Arbor to a big house at 411 N. State St, one of those frame ones built by Miss Ellen Morse. I was terribly homesick at first but soon got over it. I started to get acquainted with my surroundings and with our neighbors. They were all the subject of my curiosity, but the house and its residents kitty-corner across from us at 406 N. State at the NE corner of State and Lawrence were the ones with which this article is concerned.

It was an old one-family house, well kept up where Mr. and Mrs. Jay C. Herrick lived with their grown-up son, Dr. Jay H. Herrick. Jay Herrick the elder was a quiet friendly man who had been a partner in Herrick and Bohnet's grocery store in the days before chains, when a lot of money could be made. He had also been on the Washtenaw County Board of Supervisors for years. Mrs. Herrick was tall and thin and rarely left the house. Dr. Herrick was their only child and he had something peculiar about him, especially his head and eyes. He was clean-shaven and had a good complexion. He would sit on the front porch, looking around, saying nothing and apparently seeing nothing. He would have temper tantrums, quarreling with his parents and would then grab his hat, plunk it straight on his head and go downtown almost on a run. We knew someone was going to get the brunt end of a tongue-lashing, but we never found out who. He had a dental office on the south side of the house on Lawrence Street with its own entrance and a sign: Dr. Jay H. Herrick, dentist. I never saw a customer.

My family was only one of a large number of Chelsea expatriates who had drifted to Ann Arbor about the time we did. They were frequent callers. One of them, Miss Katherine Keelan, had been a secretary in one of the offices of the University of Michigan Dental College. One day when she was leaving our house she saw Dr. Herrick sitting on his porch. She told us he had graduated from the Dental College and had applied for a commission in the army—it was wartime—and was on the car that was in the head-on collision on the Detroit United Railway west of Chelsea only a few years before. He had received ghastly head injuries that left him incapacitated for life.

Dr. Jay Harry Herrick was born in Ann Arbor May 22, 1892, son of Jay C and Anna O'Connor Herrick. He probably went to Jones School, a block away on Division St. He entered Ann Arbor High in 1909 and graduated in 1913. The yearbook of that year, the ***Omega,*** credits him with being Class President, Captain of the Track Team, Speaker at the Honor Banquet, and active in track, baseball and football. There is a cartoon of a handsome young man placing a ring on the finger of an attractive young woman with a caption "Loves Young Dream." As one can tell by the pictures in his yearbooks, Herrick was a handsome young man, active in sports, and destined for a great future.

Jay entered the University of Michigan that year and graduated from the Dental

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The Tragedy Of Dr. Herrick

Continued from page 5.

College in 1917. He is erroneously identified in the Michiganensian as Harry Jay Herrick. He was waiting for his commission in the Army Dental Corps when he had the misfortune to go home for the weekend and be on the interurban car that was hit by the loaded freight car.

The D.U.R. Depot in Chelsea was on Main and Van Buren and a spur ran on the side for the loading and unloading of freight. Two little neighbor boys, **Lawrence Wackenhut** and **John Keusch**, a cousin a year or two older than I, were in the freight section watching the car being unloaded. When the men finished, they checked to see if things were OK and they seemed to be. It was **July 20, 1918**.

About a mile west of Chelsea, the electric line ran along beside and just south of the Michigan Central Railroad tracks. On the north was Cavanaugh Lake Road. At this point there was a curve that presented no obstruction to a long-range view of the tracks ahead. The conductor and motorman saw the freight coming and put on the brakes. They got the car slowed down to 25 miles/hour and then jumped just before the crash. The freight car never noticed the passenger car and roared along at a speed of 50 miles/hour. It plowed into the passenger car and sheared over halfway through the upper half, leaving it in splinters. The area was strewn with bodies of dead and dying people. It was exactly 7:45 and thus still light.

Mrs. Conrad Hafner was sitting on the front porch of her house directly across the street and saw the whole thing. Her husband was working at a haystack near the barn. He saw it too, and both hurried to the scene. They along with the motormen and conductors and uninjured soldiers and civilians from the car began at once to get the injured out of the car and tend to those lying on the ground.

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Chamberlain and her mother of Detroit (formerly of Ann Arbor) were in an auto a short distance away. They heard the crash and were the first to arrive after the Haffners. Mrs. Chamberlain ordered one of the men standing around to get a pail of water, while Mr. Chamberlain helped get the wounded out of the wreck, one of them being a man who head was a bloody mass and therefore unrecognizable. He was also unconscious. The men carried the injured across the railroad tracks and laid them beside the road. By this time the local Red Cross unit had arrived headed by **Mrs. Katherine McKune**. She got there within five minutes.

Mrs. McKune spent the next few minutes calling local physicians, druggists, Red Cross members and arranging for the use of the Town Hall and Firemen's Hall. Cots, blankets, bandages, and all needed supplies were drawn from Red Cross stockpiles prepared for war use. Calls were made for a hospital car and physicians from Ann Arbor's three hospitals, University Hospital, St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital and the Homeopathic Hospital. Mrs. McKune was soon actively working at the scene with her husband and Red Cross members. Many drivers volunteered to take the injured to the hospitals in Ann Arbor. Ministers from the various churches came to comfort the wounded and give the last sacraments to the Catholics. The unidentified man with the bashed-in head was given the last rites, just in case.

One of those comforted was **Theophile Stanger** of Ann Arbor who died shortly after asking to see his wife. He had been at one time the proprietor of the Ann Arbor German newspaper ***Das Hausfreund und Post***. He had written several now forgotten novels. His son Egbert (Eck) later became the photographer for the ***Ann Arbor News***.

When the statistics were totaled, seven soldiers from Camp Custer, two women and three men were dead. One man died in a hospital in Ann Arbor, bringing the total to thirteen. Forty-seven were listed as wounded and of these, 25 were soldiers. A hospital car arrived from Ann Arbor and Mr. Chamberlain accompanied it to town. At the station he met a friend Mrs. Jay Herrick frantic with worry about her son. Mr. Chamberlain assured her that her son wasn't involved in the accident. Mrs. Herrick was horrified to learn the truth later, and so was Mr. Chamberlain when he learned that one of the wounded he had carried from the wreck had indeed been Dr. Herrick.

At first, no hope was held for his recovery. He remained unconscious for days and was in the hospital for weeks with a crushed skull. He did recover, but he had to wear a metal plate on the back of his head for the rest of his life, and he never regained his previous health and his mind was permanently impaired. His mother died in the 1930s and an attempt was made to commit him to the Ypsilanti State hospital. A second attempt in 1945 was successful.

In 1942 I joined the military service and at that time Dr. Jay and his father seemed to be getting along. I did not return to Ann Arbor until 1950 when I purchased one of Miss Ellen Morse's houses at 403 N. State. I rejoined the St. Thomas Choir. We gave a Christmas concert at Ypsilanti State Hospital and to my surprise Dr. Jay was sitting in the front row with his hat plunked right down on his head the way he always wore it. After the concert finished, I went up to him to shake hands and greet him. He didn't recognize me and paid me no attention at all. He just kept muttering about not belonging there and trying to get in touch with someone who would get him out. I was shocked and deeply moved to see the familiar figure in such a condition. The next time I learned anything about him was when I saw his obituary in the ***Ann Arbor News*** on August 14, 1968, just a month over 50 years after the critical collision.

It was election time in October of 1918, and Washtenaw County Asst. Prosecutor Leslie Lisle was running for Prosecutor, so he made a big noise about arresting and prosecuting the Motorman Fisk and Conductor Buck. Right after the collision, Buck told a reporter, "I'd be glad to change places with any of those who are dead, than be alive and under these circumstances." Both men were arrested and brought before Justice John W. Thomas for arraignment. Both came freely and answered questions fully and honestly without concealing anything or trying to excuse themselves. They made a good impression on everyone at the hearing. There is no evidence that they were ever prosecuted, and it is no doubt partly due to their behavior at the arraignment that caused the subsequent dropping of charges.

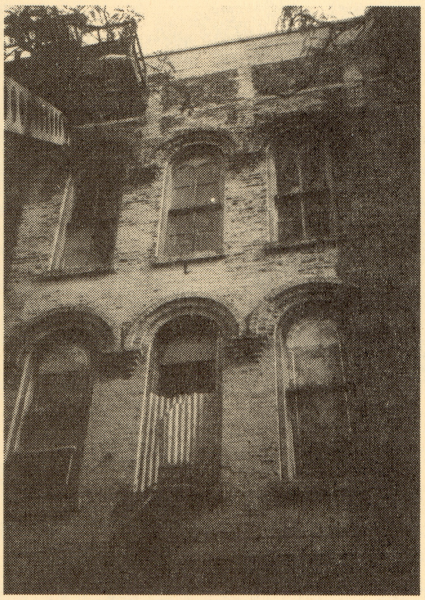
SUSAN WINEBERG

Around The Town

The **University of Michigan** demolished the **Planada Apartment** House at 1127 E. Ann in mid-October, despite pleas from historic preservationists to find another use for it. The best use for them is a parking structure and a parking structure it will be. It is tragic that the University continues to demolish buildings of historic value to the community, setting a bad example in how to be a good neighbor. Despite the critical lack of affordable housing in central Ann Arbor, the University continues to demolish buildings on its borders and ignore its own Architecture and Urban Planning College's findings on the need for increased density in the urban core to restrain some of the sprawl around Washtenaw County. Shame on them.

Several historic district committees have held public hearings and have proposals making their way to City Council for approval. **The Lower Town Historic District** will be the topic of our November meeting and the **Individual Historic Properties District** has been re-formed into **Thematic Districts** for churches, businesses, apartment buildings, and transportation-related buildings (including old gas stations). The thematic districts are proposed for buildings that were formerly protected. They were grouped into themes at the suggestion of the State Historic Preservation Office. Both districts will be coming before City Council early next year. Yours truly is on both of these committees as well as the Historic District Commission. When does she have time to write the *Impressions?* We'll keep you posted.

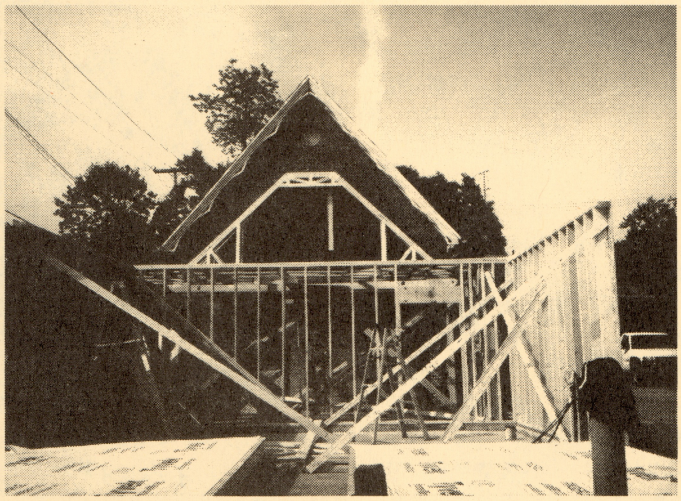
Many noticeable changes to historic buildings have been happening around town. On Main Street, the metal framing covering the 19th century facades of **303-307 S. Main** was removed, revealing buildings covered in green paint but in reasonably good condition and with some original windows intact. **Amvest** Property Management will be managing the new office and retail space. The Historic District Commission last year approved **Forest Hill Cemetery's** storage barn for demolition. The new addition is supposed to use the same interesting shingle pattern on the roof that was there before. With the suspension of the IHP District, the cemetery is no longer protected. The 300 block of S. Main is still in the **Main Street Historic District** however. And **Wystan Stevens** continues his tradition of historical story telling in the **Forest Hill Cemetery** every Sunday until mid-November. The tours begin at 2 PM and cost $10. Just meet at the cemetery gate. This is a treat not to be missed.



Façade of 305 S. Main after metal front removed. Photo: S. Wineberg

Another nice event in October was the dedication of the **Gateway Garden** at the **Nichols Arboretum** in front of the **Burnham House** that was moved there from Wall Street in 1998. Problems with runoff from Forest Hill cemetery challenged the landscape architects and everyone is hoping this new design will prevent the erosion problems of the past.

The **Detroit Observatory** continues its tours and lectures in November and December. Tours of the facility built in 1854 and restored in 1999 will be held on **November 19, December 3** and **December 10** from 1-4 PM. On Tuesday **November 18, Brian Dunnigan** of the Clements Library lectures on *Mackinac Before Photography: Travelers, Artists and Cartographers, 1634-1870.* On Tuesday, **December 2, Sally Bund** of the Bentley Library lectures on *Albert Kahn, Master of American Industrial Architecture.* The lectures are free but are limited to the first 40 people to arrive. The Observatory is located at 1398 E. Ann and can be reached at **734-763-2230** or at **www.DetroitObservatory.umich.edu.**



Forest Hill Cemetery is getting a new storage facility. Photo: S Wineberg

The UM Michigan League is gearing up for the celebration of its 75th anniversary.

They will be hosting, an A Capella competition, historical crossword puzzle, scavenger hunt and several lectures each month from January-April on such diverse topics as Pewabic tiles, Pond and Pond, architects, the history of the Mendelssohn Theater and the role of student unions in college life. More to come on this next year.

The **Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County** will meet on Sunday, **November 23** at 1:30 at the Auditorium of the Education Center, 5305 Elliott Drive at St. Joseph Hospital/McAuley Center. Use Parking Lot P and look for their signs. The speaker will be **Elaine Alexander** talking on "***Alsace, Home of My Ancestors.***" After the program, **Caroline Griffin** will conduct a class on **Huguenots**. The lectures are free and open to the public. You can call **734-483-2799** for more information or visit their website at **www.hvcn.org/info/gswc.**

Gateway Garden at the Nichols Arboretum dedicated in October. Photo: S Wineberg

The **Friends of the Bentley Library** held its 36th Annual Meeting on October 16 at the newly refurbished library, which is finally getting its new addition as well. Director Francis Blouin had a lot to report. They've received the papers of Governor **John Engler**, the legal records of the **Supreme Court UM Affirmative Action** case, an NIH grant to organize the records of the **Anthropology Department** ("the history of this department is the history of the discipline in the U.S."), and more records from the **League**, **Henderson House, Engineering** and **Museum of Art.** In addition they purchased a collection of **565 trade cards** for Ann Arbor businesses from the 19th century, and received as a gift the letters of **John Geddes** from the **Russell Bidlack** estate. They were also given a large collection of **glass negatives** found by **John Couch** in a building in **Northern Michigan** which show guests at the Grand Hotel and gamblers on the Mississippi River. If you haven't been there in a while, check out the new Bentley and their Internet connections at every table in the reading room. They are located at 1150 Beal Avenue on the North Campus of the University of Michigan. Call **734-764-3482.**

SUSAN WINEBERG

Around The County

Ypsilanti just keeps getting in the news more and more. In case you missed this chuckle, the winner of a contest sponsored by ***Cabinet Magazine*** for the most phallic building in the United States was the Ypsilanti Water Tower. Congratulations are in order.

The ***Ann Arbor News*** (October 11) profiled **Wiard's Orchards,** believed to be the **oldest continuous business in Washtenaw County**. It was in 1830 that Lyman Wiard moved his family from Rochester, New York to Ypsilanti and farmed with his son and brothers along Wiard and Grove Roads, growing apples, and making cider and vinegar. The original farm was purchased by Henry Ford to make way for the expressway leading to Willow Run and the family then moved to the current 80-acre apple farm on Merritt. They recently celebrated their Sesquicentennial and have some 200,000 visitors a year coming to pick apples and have a farm experience with their families. They were the vanguard of "entertainment farming" which is something they needed to do to remain viable. The original barn is now the gift shop and a haunted barn, bunny miniature golf course, pony rides, hay jump and animal petting farm, along with u-pick apples and pumpkins, is now part of the farm experience. You can learn more by visiting their website at

EMU Alumni of the Historic Preservation Program have their first meeting with President Kirkpatrick. Bill Click at left organized it all. Photo: David Tillman.

www.wiards.com or calling **734-482-7744**.

The folks in the **Preservation Program** at Eastern are just getting more and more organized. Recent graduate **Bill Click** organized the first **alumni organization** for the program and hosted the first meeting at the newly opened President's House October 20th. It was a great reception and this was quite a coup for the program. A photo shows Bill Click at the far left with many graduates of the program flanking President Kirkpatrick. And perhaps beginning a new tradition, the program will co-sponsor a **Civil War Christmas Ball** on **Saturday, December 6,** 8-11 PM, at the McKenney Union Ballroom. Tickets are $20/person prepaid and $25 at the door. All proceeds will benefit the Ypsilanti Civil War Muster and is also sponsored by the EMU Reenactors. Call Pam at **313-534-4678** or email **psetla@yahoo.com**

The **Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation** continues its speakers program with a talk by **John Harrington** on **Wednesday, November 19**, on "*The History of Printing.*" On **Wednesday, January 28, Sally Bund** will lecture on "*Albert Kahn, Master of American Industrial Architecture.*" So, if you miss her talk at the Observatory December 2, you can catch it here! All talks are free and held at 7:30 at the Ladies Literary Club, 218 N. Washington St. You can find out more at **www.yhf.org.**

Another **single resource historic district** is reaching its final stages and will soon submit its report to the Board of Commissioners. The **McMahon Springs Historic District,** located at **2426 Whitmore Lake Road** in **Ann Arbor Township,** has been under study for almost two years. Committee members include Janis Bobrin, Tom Nicely, Gene Ragland, Grace Shackman, and myself. Ex-officios are the owners Brian and Linda Etter, Marnie Paulus, Preservation Planner in the Washtenaw County Planning Department, and Nancy Snyder, Chair of the Washtenaw County HDC. The district consists of a house built in 1867 on 1.4 acres along with a garage converted from the former dairy barn. Notable landscape features include three springs and a trout pond. A 19-page preliminary report is available from the county. Call Marnie at **734-222-6878.**

The **Hack House Museum** in **Milan** has a new curator, **Patricia Majher.** She recently published an article on cobblestone houses in ***Michigan History*** magazine and is a graduate of the Preservation Program at EMU. The **Milan Area Historical Society** will be sponsoring a talk by **David Bridgens** on **Thursday, November 20** on "*Outhouse Archaeology.*" Bridgens of the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing will discuss not only the obvious function of outhouses but also their secondary role at a place to dispose broken household goods and other items which provide a glimpse of the material culture of the 19th century. The talk will be held at the Old Fire Barn at Main and County Streets in downtown Milan. Call **734-971-2776** if you need more information.

The **Saline Area Historical Society** continues its program on Henry Ford with a lecture on **Wednesday, November 19** at 7:30 PM by **Pat Molloy**, local businesswoman who will discuss the ***Ford School in Saline.*** The building, now housing her office, was moved by Henry Ford from the Saline River and intended to be for children of his employees who worked at the mill. The talk is free and at the Depot, 402 N. Ann Arbor St. On **Saturday, December 13,** from 11-4 there will be a **Christmas Open House at the Rentschler Farm Museum,** 1265 E. Michigan Avenue. The Queen Anne farmhouse will be decorated for a 1930s Christmas with good smells coming from the kitchen. Yum! For more info call **734-769-2219.**

The **Pittsfield Township Historical Society** will be holding a ***Panel on One-Room Schools*** on **Sunday, November 9** at 2 PM at the community center, 701 W. Ellsworth Rd. On **Sunday, December 14,** a ***holiday gathering*** with finger foods and beverages will be held at a location to be announced. Their last newsletter noted the death of **Harold A. Wilson,** a lifelong resident who transferred his property to the township as a farm museum, along with $150,000 if it was called the **Sutherland-Wilson Farm Museum**. Mr. Wilson died on June 14 and he was eulogized as being a model citizen.

It will soon be the holiday season and many groups are holding special events. The **Dexter Area Historical Museum** will hold two new events this year: a ***Christmas and All Holiday Bazaar*** on **Saturday, December 6,** from 9-4 at the Museum, 3443 Inverness St. and a ***Christmas Tree Trim*** on **Thursday, November 20.** The ***Annual Christmas Sing*** will be held **Friday, December 12,** at the Museum at 7 PM. For more information call **734-426-2519.**

The folks at **Waterloo** will also be celebrating a ***Victorian Christmas*** on **Saturday, December 6** from 10-5 PM and on **Sunday, December 7,** noon-5 PM. "Our Victorian Christmas will warm your heart and bring back lovely visions of Christmases past." They are located at 9998 Waterloo-Munith Road. Just over the border in Jackson County. Call **517- 596-2254.**

If you grew up in **East Ann Arbor,** you might want to join the 'breakfast club' of the Pittsfield Township folks which meets once a month at the Big Boy near Platt Rd. and Washtenaw. The newsletter also reported the results of the small 'dig' in June by **April Beisaw** and **Marcia Ticknor** at the original site of the **Town Hall School** on Morgan Road. They found the foundations of the 1852 brick school and also evidence of flint knapping from an earlier period. Pieces of slate pencils, marbles, crockery and metal were also found. If you want to learn more about Pittsfield Township, visit their website at **www.pittsfieldhistory.org,** or call President **Betty LeClair** at **734-971-2384**.

The ***Ann Arbor News*** on October 11 reported the re-opening of the historic **Foster Bridge** after six months of work. It is one of a handful of metal truss bridges left in Michigan and dates from 1876. A group of **Citizens for Foster Bridge Conservancy** raised money to pay consultants for a rehab plan and the **Village of Barton Hills** contributed $225,000 from their Michigan Transportation Funds, which was matched by the Washtenaw County Road Commission. Now that we can celebrate this success, those in the county who care about bridges should encourage the Road Commission to restore the **Bell Road Bridge** as well. Built in a similar manner and of a similar age, this bridge now lies on the bank of the Huron, waiting for funds for restoration. Let's get this bridge restored too!

SUSAN WINEBERG

Beyond Washtenaw

The **Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village** re-opened in August under a new name—**The Henry Ford**—and with new features and facilities. It is already calling itself "America's Greatest History Attraction" after this $60 million makeover according to the ***Wall Street Journal.*** As they noted, the Museum, which first opened in 1929 has harnessed "modernity in the service of antiquity" and has made more sense out of the disparate artifacts and buildings than there was before. The familiar exhibits on the Wright Brothers, Edison's Lab, Firestone's Farm and others are still there. What's new are concrete roads, sidewalks, and a chance to take a ride in a Model T. Of importance to Ann Arbor is the Greek Revival house that was moved from Pontiac Trail in the 1930s. Interpreted in the past as the **"Ann Arbor House,"** it is now being interpreted as the **"Robert Frost House"** because he resided in it for one year. Somehow, it just doesn't seem the same. Next year the Museum will begin to offer tours of the **River Rouge Plant**. There is also the **Benson Ford Research Center** with resources to study the automobile and Henry Ford.

The Ann Arbor House (now Robert Frost House) at Greenfield Village. Photo: S. Wineberg

There were also other celebrations in the auto industry over the summer. Both **Ford** and **Buick** celebrated their **100th anniversaries** with vintage car shows and other hoopla. And the birthplace of the **Model T**—the **Piquette Plant** in Detroit—is still undergoing renovation by a dedicated group of volunteers who opened it up for tours over the summer. The plant is now on the state and national registers of historic buildings. You can find out more about them at their website **www. tplex.org** or by calling **313-867-8960.**

Motor Cities ANHA (Automobile National Heritage Area) continues to interpret and track events at various automobile-related sites throughout SE Lower Michigan. Much energy has been focused on the Top Eleven Sites and Stories Initiative, among which are the renovation of **Reynolds Hall** in Jackson County (after a near brush with death), the listing of the historic parts of the **Rouge Complex** on the National Register, and the restoration of the **Packard Proving Grounds** in Shelby Township. Other buildings receiving attention are the **Dry Dock Engine Works** (aka the **Globe Building**) in Detroit's Rivertown which was documented by the HAER (Historic American Engineering Record) for deposit in the Library of Congress. It is one of the oldest steel framed industrial buildings remaining in Detroit and is also one of the last connections to pre-automotive industries in Detroit. Another success story is the **Boydell Building** in downtown Detroit, which was slated to be demolished

Greenfield Village now has paved roads and sidewalks as well as its familiar attractions. Photo: S. Wineberg

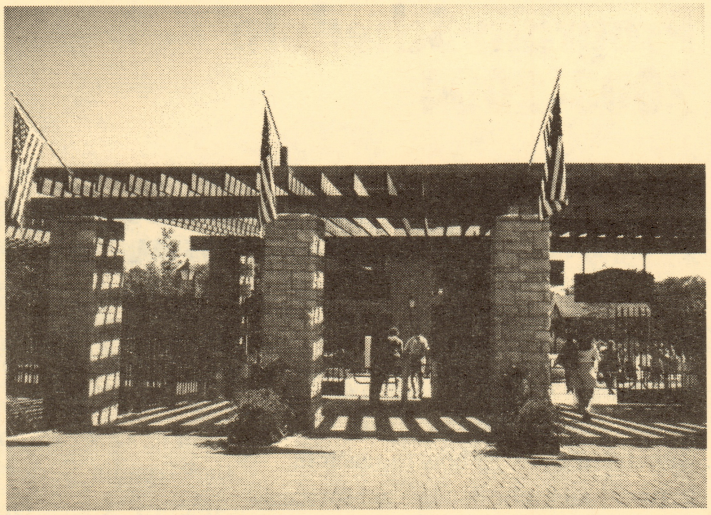
for the Greektown Casino and is now being spared instead.

If you want to learn more, write them at **300 River Place, Suite 1600, Detroit 48207** or visit their website at **www.auto heritage.org** or call **313-259-3425.**

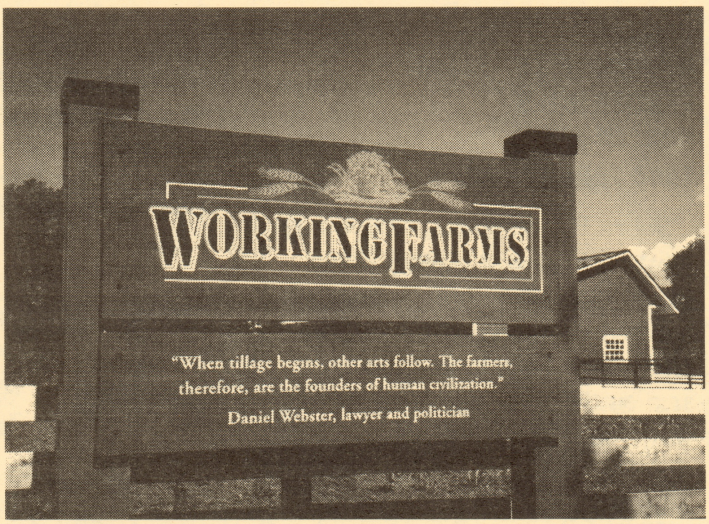
If you are already thinking about Christmas, you may want to take a tour given by the **Downtown Historic Churches Association of Detroit**. The tour is **Saturday, December 27** from 10 AM and includes five churches including Historic Trinity Church. The cost is $20 which includes a box lunch. Call the church at **313-567-3100.**

One of Detroit's premier architects is having a show, but it's in **Clinton** in Lenawee County. The Historical Society of Clinton was awarded a $16,000 grant for their **Wirt C. Rowland Traveling Exhibit.** Rowland was the architect of the Guardian and Penobscot Buildings in Detroit, Kirk in the Hills and Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church, and a native of Clinton. To find out more about this exhibit, contact the **Tecumseh Area Historical Society** at **517-423-2374.** In September they were offering free windows with wavy (old!) glass and a door. Maybe it's still available.

The **Michigan Stained Glass Census** at Michigan State University Museum will soon launch a brief bimonthly email newsletter that will include updates on their activities and general news about stained glass in Michigan. If you're interested, email **macdowe3@pilot.msu.edu.**



The new entry to Greenfield Village. Photo: S. Wineberg



Henry Ford thought highly of farmers. Greenfield Village. Photo: S. Wineberg

What Is It???

Our Education Chair **Sally Silvennoinen** would like teachers and groups to know about her work with the **"What's It" Game.** It consists of 12 artifacts from our collections and travels with Sally to schools or groups who request it. One artifact is a candle mold. Another is a foot warmer used in sleighs that brings back memories of her grandpa's sleigh blanket and warming stone. Sally has question sheets with three choices and you guess what the artifact is. She also demonstrates how it was used.

Sally also manages our two **Loan Boxes**, entitled **Life Before Electricity** and **Hats to Spats**. Both loan boxes are available for $15.00, with a deposit of $50. They are self-guided and designed particularly for elementary and middle schoolchildren. They consist of artifacts that can be touched, books, and ideas for projects. Anyone interested in obtaining the Loan Boxes, or in having Sally demonstrate the What's It Game should call her at **734-971-5086.**

Program Schedule 2003-2004

Vice President and Program Chair **Ralph Beebe** has done a fantastic job of planning interesting programs and venues for the upcoming year. All programs are held the third Sunday of the month at 2 PM. The talks are free and open to the public. Members receive a post card before the meeting with instructions on how to reach the lecture. Light refreshments are served after the lecture.

SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 16 • 2 PM
GLACIER HILLS
HANSEN ROOM
1200 EARHART RD.

Sabra Briere, Chair of the Lower Town Historic District Study Committee, will talk about historic preservation and the proposed **Lower Town Historic District**. Lower Town is the area on the north side of the Broadway Bridge which was once separate from Ann Arbor. It contains some of Ann Arbor's oldest homes, many of which are associated with the **Underground Railroad.**

SUNDAY • FEBRUARY 15 • 2 PM
RIVERSIDE ARTS CENTER
YPSILANTI • 76 N. HURON ST.

Barry LaRue, Ypsilanti City Council member and historic preservation activist, will lecture on ***Ypsilanti's Historic Buildings***. He served for nine years on **Ypsilanti's Historic District Commission** and is past board member of the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation. He is also active on the board of the Riverside Arts Center, the 1909 former Masonic Temple. He and his wife live in a 150-year old house which they are lovingly restoring.

SUNDAY • MARCH 21 • 2 PM
SALINE DISTRICT LIBRARY
555 MAPLE RD.

Sue Kosky, WCHS Board Member, manager of our museum shop and one of our dedicated gardeners, will talk about her book ***Historic Saline: Settlement to 1950***. This book is another in the Arcadia Series on "Images of America" which Grace Shackman's books were part of as well.

SUNDAY • APRIL 18 • 2 PM
COURTHOUSE SQUARE BUILDING
100 S. FOURTH AVENUE

Ray Detter, Louisa Pieper and **Grace Shackman** will talk about **The Downtown Street Exhibit Program** that is getting rave reviews all over the U.S. and winning awards as well. You've probably noticed the glass markers in the sidewalks around town with old photographs of buildings no longer standing. A new group of 'frames' as they are called, which are scattered around the campus and deal with University history, was dedicated in July.

WEDNESDAY • MAY 19 • 6 PM
ANNUAL MEETING • TBA

Our Annual Meeting and Potluck Supper will be held this date. Location to be announced in the future.

Kudos

The **Downtown Historical Street Exhibit Program** was presented a prestigious Award of Merit by the **Historical Society of Michigan** at their Annual Meeting in Port Huron in October. This project, which has erected markers with historic photos on many downtown corners, has been winning awards from both state and national groups. Congratulations to **Ray Detter**, the director of the project, and **Louisa Pieper** and **Grace Shackman**, the driving forces making it work.

John Revitte presents the Award of Merit for the Street Exhibit program to some of the personnel involved: Grace Shackman, Ilene Tyler, Susan Wineberg and Ray Detter. Photo: Lars Bjorn

SUSAN WINEBERG

News You Can Use

The **National Trust for Historic Preservation** announced there is a growing movement among committed preservationists—a movement they are proud to lead—whose goal is to give increased attention to historic **resources from the recent past** (the last 50 years). As a result, they have helped communities in Northern California find a future for their World War II resources that include shipyards, embarkation points and coast defense stations. This project is called "Over Here." The Trust's leadership to save buildings from the recent past is great news. It may prevent the demolition of many buildings that aren't quite historic enough to many to warrant protection.

In the "hard to believe" department is news that **Colonial Williamsburg** has a problem with declining attendance and a budget deficit of $35 million. Ouch! If you've been thinking about visiting, do it now and help them at the same time. Although attendance began declining in 1995, it accelerated after 9/11 and now they are laying off many people. This year the **Carter's Grove Plantation** was closed for repairs and plans to open a resort spa and center that will offer one-day health evaluations for $3,000/person are being proposed. The Williamsburg Foundation, established in 1926, has always had a resort component to help the historic restorations, which has 88 original buildings and rebuilt ones in addition. Leaders worry that the public doesn't understand its mission and that they need to work harder to attract an audience. They would like to be emotionally moving in the way that **Ellis Island** is. But they are not alone. Attendance is down 21% at **Mt. Vernon**, the home of George Washington as well. Williamsburg is 150 miles south of Washington DC and is open year-round. Check out their website at **www.colonialwilliamsburg.org.**

Congress was lobbied heavily and gave a short reprieve (five months) to the **Transportation Equity Act (TEA-21)** which is a popular enhancements program allowing for historic projects with a transportation connection to be funded by federal grants. However, the entire program has been targeted for elimination by the Bush administration. Preservationists are busy now trying to educate their congressional representatives on how this bill protects historic resources in their states and districts. You too can help by contacting your legislator and telling them the value of historic preservation in your area. The folks involved in this debate are on the Senate and House Interior Appropriations Committees. Let them know how you feel.

The **Scenic Byways Program** is also under threat. This program, administered by the Federal Highway Administration, designates byways based on archaeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational and scenic qualities. To date there are 95 designated roadways in 39 states. Learn more at **www.byways.org.**

Interested in outdoor sculpture? The newsletter of the advocacy group **Save Outdoor Sculpture (SOS)** will be going online in November. Check out their website at **www.heritagepreservation.org** and learn about all the outdoor sculptures being rescued around the country.

PAULINE WALTERS • PRESIDENT

Wish List

COMPUTER GURU- The Society seeks a volunteer who could put in a network between the three computers in the Museum to allow each to access email and any of the printers.

COORDINATOR OF GUIDES/ DOCENTS. A volunteer to recruit docents for the Saturdays and Sundays when the Museum is open between Noon and 4 PM. Also, extra docents/ guides for the two Holiday Open Houses the first two weekends of December, also from Noon to 4 PM. And volunteers to prepare the refreshments for the weekend Open Houses.

GARDEN COORDINATOR. A person who can recruit and supervise volunteers for the Museum's gardens for the next season. Our gardens have been developed to represent the plants of the early 1900s by Patricia Thompson and are well established. Now they need regular TLC from persons that like to take care of a beautiful garden.

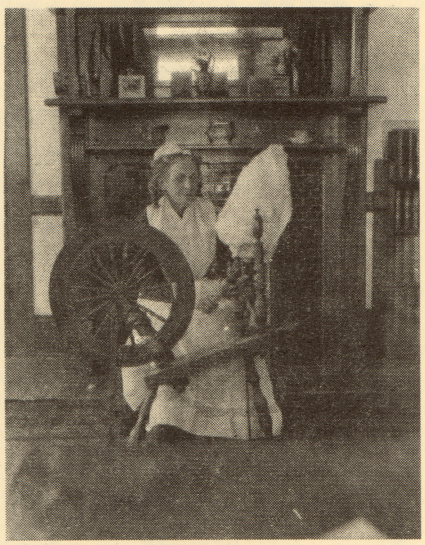
ON-CALL HANDIPERSON. Someone that can come by the Museum on a semi-regular basis to take care of the small tasks that come up from time to time, i.e., change light bulbs, move tables/furniture, be on hand when exhibits are being mounted, and some such tasks.

HOLIDAY GIFTS. Visit our Museum Shop in the Museum on Main Street, 500 N. Main.

Please drop by the Museum or call **734-662-9092.**

BE A DOCENT - Team with a friend.

Remember When?



Mrs. Stickney at her spinning wheel at home on Haven Street in Ann Arbor.

Here's another purchase from Ebay showing **Mrs. Stickney** dressed no doubt in her great grandmother's clothes and spinning at her wheel. The Stickney's were originally from New Hampshire and lived on 12th Street in Ann Arbor which later became Haven Street which eventually was swallowed up by the UM School of Business. Their home, which was at the corner of Hill and Haven, was later that of Walter Mack before it became a UM Annex to the Architecture School and eventually demolished around 1970.

Support For The *Impressions*

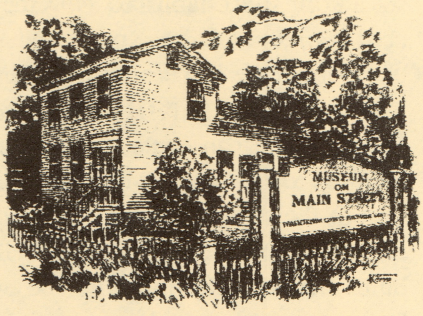
This issue of the *Impressions* is co-sponsored by the

Bank of Ann Arbor

Support Wanted For *Impressions*

The ***Impressions*** are expensive to write, produce and mail out to over 1000 people. Your business can co-sponsor an issue for $400, which is less than half what is costs us. We've had great sponsorship in the past but lately we haven't heard from you! Please consider helping us get the historical news out by sponsoring an issue. Your business' name will be boxed as the sponsor of that issue. Of course, anyone can sponsor an issue and we'd love to have help from our members as well.

If you are an avid reader of the ***Impressions*** and are not a member, we strongly encourage you to join. Our membership stands at about 450 and we'd like to expand our base even more. The information on how to join is on the front page of the newsletter. Give it a thought!



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"HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE"
DECEMBER 6, 7, 13 & 14

VISIT OUR DOLLHOUSE & VICTORIAN TOY EXHIBIT

NOVEMBER 8 • JANUARY 10

NANCY KROHN
905 ROBIN RD
ANN ARBOR MI 48103-3008